

**COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION**

As a below named inventor, we hereby declare that:

Our residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated near our names below.

We believe we are the **original, first and joint inventors** of the subject matter of which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

GAS REGULATING FITTING

which is described and claimed in the specification of which:

☒ was filed on _____ as United States Application Serial No. _____, attorney docket number _____.

We declare that this application is:

☐ a first filing.

☐ a continuation.

☐ a continuation-in-part.

☐ a divisional.

☒ an U.S. National Phase of a PCT

We hereby state that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

We do not know and do not believe our invention was known or used by others in the United States of America, or patented or described in a printed publication in any country before our invention thereof.

We do not know and do not believe our invention was patented or described in a printed publication in any country or in public use or on sale in the United States of America, more than one year prior to this application.

We acknowledge our duty to disclose information of which we are aware which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a).

We hereby claim that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention has been filed in any foreign country or in the United States of America prior to this application by any of us or any of our legal representatives or assigns except as follows:

PRIORITY CLAIM

We hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(a)-(d) or Section 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT International application filed by us on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed.

☐ no such applications have been filed.

☒ such applications have been filed as follows:

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (month, day, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 37 USC 119
Germany	10 2004 012 202.4	Mar. 12, 2004	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PCT	PCT/EP2005/002522	Mar. 10, 2005	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

We hereby claim priority to and all the benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s).

☒ no such applications have been filed.

☐ such applications have been filed as follows:

APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (month, day, year)
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We hereby claim priority to and all the benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below. If the above identified application is a continuation-in-part application, we acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this continuation-in-part application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.63(e).

☒ no such applications have been filed.

☐ such applications have been filed as follows:

APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (month, day, year)	STATUS (patented, pending, abandoned)
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POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a named inventor, we hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith with full power of substitution and revocation. (all names listed with corresponding registration numbers)

Harold W. Milton	22,180	Kristopher K. Huiliburger	53,047
William H. Honaker	31,623	David M. LaPrairie	46,295
Raymond E. Scott	22,981	Jeffrey A. Sadowski	29,005
Gregory D. DeGrazia	48,944	Randall L. Shoemaker	43,118
Samuel J. Haidle	42,619	Robert L. Stearns	43,118
Toni L. Harris	44,746	John P. Seurnynck	52,208
Brian Herrington	42,659	James R. Yee	34,460

Please address all correspondence and telephone calls to:

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DECLARATION

We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Jürgen Blank
Name: Jürgen Blank

August 15, 2006
Dated

Address: Steinbergstraße 3
06507 GERNRODE
Germany

Post Office: Same

Citizenship: German

Barbara Happe
Name: Barbara Happe

August 15, 2006
Dated

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06507 GERNRODE
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Citizenship: German

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit : Unknown
Examiner : Unknown
Inventors : Jürgen Blank and Barbara Happe
Serial No. : Unknown
Filed : Concurrent Herewith
For : GAS REGULATING FITTING

Patent No. : TBD
Issued : TBD

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9 (f) AND 1.27 (c)) – SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN**

I hereby declare that I am

- ☐ the owner of the small business concern identified below:
☒ an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of
the concern identified below:

Name Of Concern : Mertik Maxitrol GmbH & Co. KG
Address Of Concern: Warnstedter Straße 3
06502 THALE
Germany

I hereby declare that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 121.1301-1305, and referenced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that exclusive rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention described in

- ☒ the specification filed herewith.
☐ the application whose serial number is set forth above
☐ the patent set forth above

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9 (f) AND 1.27 (c)) – SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN**

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statement may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Signed: ppa. Klaus W. Jesse

Date: August 15, 2006

Name Of Person Signing: Klaus W. Jesse

Title Of Person If Other Than Owner: Authorized Manager